GreenPower News
An update from Western's Renewable Resources Program covering green power, reports and studies and funding.

August 13, 2014 Contact us Subscribe

Green Power

Call for nominations for 2014 EPA Climate Leadership Awards

The Climate Leadership Awards, co-sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency, is a national awards program that recognizes and supports exemplary corporate, organizational and individual leadership in response to climate change. Now in its fourth year, the awards continue to honor and highlight leadership in addressing climate change by reducing carbon pollution and implementing adaptation planning initiatives. **Nominations are due Sept. 12, 2014**. Read more. *Source: US Environmental Protection Agency, 8/11/14*

EPA Releases Updated Top Green Power Partner Lists

Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Green Power Partnership released updated lists of the top Green Power Partners that are choosing to use electricity from clean, renewable sources.

New to the National Top 100 list are: Johnson Controls, Inc. (No. 28); SAP America (No. 63); Keurig Green Mountain, Inc. (No. 71); and Applied Materials, Inc. (No. 82). Intel Corporation continues to top the list, using more than three billion kilowatt-hours of green power annually to cover 100 percent of its electricity load. Fifteen Partners on the National Top 100 list increased their annual green power

use, including Intel; the cities of Houston, Austin, and Dallas, TX; and BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company). Read more. *Source: EPA Green Power Partnership, 7/28/14*

Geothermal Industry Grows, With Help From Oil and Gas Drilling

Geothermal energy — tapping into heat deep underground and using it to produce power — is sometimes described as a forgotten renewable. It languishes in the shadows of better-known sources like wind and the sun, and in 2011 it accounted for less than 1 percent of electric power worldwide, according to last year's World Energy Outlook.

Yet the geothermal industry is growing, if slowly, and proponents hope that new technologies — including tie-ins with drilling for oil and natural gas — will bring further gains. Last year, the amount of electric power capacity available from geothermal resources grew about 4 percent to 5 percent globally, according to a report released in April by the Geothermal Energy Association, which is based in Washington. The United States remains the world's leader in the use of geothermal energy for electric power, followed by the Philippines, Indonesia and Mexico, according to the report. Read more. *Source: New York Times, 7/24/14*

Waste Conversion for Resource Recovery

An Examination of Terminology, Infrastructure, Regulation and Standards

Toward the New Hierarchy

It seems so pointless to throw our National Resources into a hole and pay to keep them there, just to once again pay to put virgin resources back into the one-way flow of our supply chain. Yet anyone who has been witness to indiscriminant "trashing" of our environment understands that today's best management practices are a grand improvement over past calamities.

We can't (yet) stop throwing away at least a fraction of what we acquire. After consumer choice effects Reduction of packaging (for example) and even after used items have indeed been Reused, utility eventually expires and the remainder will be discarded by the owner. This release of a discarded item identifies it in law as a "waste", and passes ownership back to whatever means society at large has designated for waste management. Read more. *Source: Teru Talk, June 2009*

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Reports, studies and policy

DIY Solar Market Analysis Webinar Series: PVWatts

As part of a Do-It-Yourself Solar Market Analysis summer series, NREL's Solar Technical Assistance Team (STAT) presented a live webinar titled, "PVWatts®: New tips and tricks for the latest update." In this webinar, one of the tool's developers explains how the new version of PVWatts® improves visual appeal and functionality, consolidates previous versions to reduce maintenance, and updates the energy prediction algorithms to be in line with the actual performance of modern photovoltaic systems. Watch the webinar. *Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 8/11/14*

How To Power California With Wind, Wave, & Solar Energy

With a population of over 38 million and rising, California has often been deemed of sufficient size to

almost be considered a nation-state of its own. The Golden State's GDP is on par with many countries, and the state has also been a global leader in renewable energy — often standing apart from its parent country's political decisions.

So, it's no surprise that a new study has been released by Stanford researchers showing how California could convert to an all-renewable energy infrastructure that is both technically and economically feasible. Read more. *Source: CleanTechnica, 7/30/14*

Webinar: Distributed PV Interconnection Screening Procedures and Online Tools

Join the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Solar Electric Power Association and Western Area Power Administration for the seventh webinar in the Distributed Generation Interconnection Collaborative informational webinar series. This webinar series is focused on current and emergent processes and protocols for the interconnection of distributed PV, with the goal of fostering information and data exchange amongst stakeholders.

The "Distributed PV Interconnection Screening Procedures and Online Tools," webinar will feature speakers from Salt River Project, who will describe the utility's supplemental screening procedure for safety and reliability. In addition, speakers from NV Energy will describe the utility's decision to adopt an online platform for interconnection application processing and early results from implementation.

Reserve your webinar seat now. After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar. *Source: Distributed Generation Interconnection Collaborative, 7/29/14*

Portland hosts year's biggest geothermal event

The Geothermal Resources Council (GRC) invites you to be part of the biggest geothermal conference and expo in the world. Promoting "Geothermal: A Global Solution," the 2014 GRC Annual Meeting & GEA Geothermal Energy Expo will be held Sept. 28 to Oct. 1 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Ore. Check out the agenda.

Save $100 by registering before August 31st! *Source: Geothermal Resource Council, 7/29/14*

Community Solar Scenario Tool

The Community Solar Scenario Tool (CSST) provides a "first cut" analysis of different community or shared solar program options. The tool has been created primarily with smaller municipal utilities, electric cooperatives, and state and local advocates in mind. This model allows users to see how various inputs, such as system size, location, and project costs, impact the economics of a project from both a potential customer's perspective as well as the sponsoring utility. Read more. *Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 7/22/14*

California Energy Commission explores ground-source heat pump issues

The *Geothermal Heat Pump and Ground Loop Technologies* staff paper provides a brief overview of these technologies and their barriers to more widespread use in California. The paper details the barriers faced by the geothermal industry, as well as proposed solutions suggested by industry. It also provides the California Energy Commission staff's responses to industry proposals.

Topics covered in the paper include California Building Energy Efficiency Standards modeling compliance, local permitting and fee schedules, installation practices, Geothermal Heat Exchange Well Standards, well log data; tiered electricity rates, utility-based loop lease programs, industry request for consideration of geothermal heat pumps as a renewable resource, and estimating avoided greenhouse gas emissions. Download the report. *Source: California Energy Commission, 7/22/14*

Industry, Investors Count on NREL's Modeling Tools

Whenever installers attach solar panels to rooftops, utilities debate the merits of a wind farm, or investors mull the potential return on a concentrating solar power (CSP) plant, there's a good chance that the performance and risk models created by the Energy Department's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) come into play.

Can a rooftop photovoltaic (PV) system work for all the homeowners in a particular neighborhood, or only for the ones with a 40-degree pitch to their roofs? Will the wind resource that works in a west Texas county work as well one county over? Read more. *Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 7/17/14*

Gaining Ground: Corporate Progress on the Ceres Roadmap for Sustainability

The scientific and economic realities facing corporations today have shifted substantially from even just a decade ago. From the risks posed to operations and the supply chain due to a changing climate, to an increasingly resource-constrained world with a growing population, to mounting human rights abuses—finding solutions to these business challenges will require collaboration, innovation and transformation. Read more. *Source: Ceres, 7/22/14*

Find more publications and webinars.

Funding

Energy Department Announces $11 Million to Advance Renewable Carbon Fiber Production from Biomass

The Energy Department announced today up to $11.3 million for two projects that aim to advance the production of cost-competitive, high-performance carbon fiber material from renewable, non-food-based feedstocks, such as agricultural residues and woody biomass. Carbon fiber – a strong, lightweight material that can replace steel and other heavier metals – can lower the cost and improve performance of fuel- efficient vehicles and renewable energy components such as wind turbine blades. The two projects seek to demonstrate new biomass conversion technologies that enable the manufacturing of acrylonitrile – an essential feedstock for high performance carbon fiber – for less than $1 per pound. Read more. *Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 7/30/14*

Find more funding sources.